

FACT SHEET

Cape Verde Compact Consultative Process: Overview of the Consultative Process to Date

Cape Verde has a strong history of consultation, and the ideas in the MCA program build on and are consistent with previous Cape Verde development strategies. The MCA assistance program is a continuation of a tradition of strategic dialogue on the national question of how to reduce poverty. Accordingly, the government of Cape Verde (GOCV) sought and achieved the participation of a wide range of individuals from various sectors—including civil society, the private sector, local and national government, Cape Verdeans living in the United States, and other donors—in the development of its MCA assistance program. Specifically, the process involved the following steps:

Initial Design and Consultations: To begin, a small nucleus of people came together to prepare the initial ideas for a program package for the MCA. A series of consultations was then held with organizations and individuals with experience or links to Cape Verde to obtain feedback on the design and ideas.

Sector, Individual and Council of Ministers Consultations: In Cape Verde, individual consultations were held with cabinet ministers, NGO groupings and private sector associations to brief them about the MCA to discuss their views on the initial program design ideas. Next, the Council of Ministers was briefed on and debated the Cape Verde's MCA program proposal.

National Consultations: A national consultation was then organized in Praia where the initial program proposal was introduced to forum participants, who debated the proposal and offered suggestions for improvements and areas of focus for later consultations. In addition, participants agreed to a process for the preparation of the MCA proposal—an MCA Working Group. Participants included representatives from several sectors; civil society; associations; non-governmental associations, including women and rural groupings; the government and municipalities and the CV Working Group was selected from these participants. To ensure widespread participation, consultations were also held with private sector and civil society in Mindelo (São Vicente Island) and on Sal Island. People from the smaller islands were invited to these consultations. The consultations were widely covered in the press (newspaper, radio and television).

Drafting Taskforce: Following the recommendation of the national workshop, the MCA working group met over a two-day period to discuss the proposal in plenary and in break-out sessions. The recommendations and sectoral reports were prepared, and a task force was selected to draft the proposal. The drafting taskforce, composed of representatives of the public administration, association of municipal governments, private sector and NGOs, worked with the private sector, government departments and NGOs. The proposal became the basis for a second round of consultations.

Reviews and Consultations: The second round of consultations were sector specific, and included the private sector, civil society and representatives of Cape Verdean communities in the United States. Donors such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Development Program provided additional input. The taskforce, working group and GOCV revised the proposal based on these comments. The proposal was submitted in August 2004 and was published on the internet at www.virtualcapeverde.net.

Stakeholders Group: A nationally representative committee (Stakeholders Group) representing government, private sector, municipalities, NGOs, community associations and political parties was established on October 2004 to provide direction and oversight for the MCA assistance program as it was being designed and developed in preparation for a Compact. This Group, chaired by the “Plataforma das ONG,” an umbrella association of NGOs, was responsible for reviewing the MCA proposal and advising the Steering Committee.

Recent Developments in the Consultative Process: During a three-day Monitoring and Evaluation workshop held in São Jorge from April 23-25, 2005, the objectives, indicators, specific outcomes and targets of the Program were reviewed and refined by the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Finance and Planning, as well as the National Institute of Statistics. They were subsequently presented to a conference in São Jorge on April 29, 2005, and agreed upon by the key Program stakeholders, including municipalities from various islands, non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector, in a continued effort to deepen the consultative process.

During Implementation: It is expected that consultations and dialogue will continue during the implementation of the Compact program. For example, a Stakeholders’ Committee (similar to the Stakeholders Group above), which will include a cross-section of representatives of beneficiary groups, will exist during the implementation of the Compact program to monitor and provide on-going feedback, advice, input and recommendations regarding the program to the entity responsible for management and oversight of the program.

Following MCC Board approval, there is a fifteen day Congressional notification period. MCC and the Government of Cape Verde anticipate signing the Compact in early July in Cape Verde.

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